Payment procedure in NREGS

2719. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the delay in payment of wage due to complicated procedure to the workers engaged on National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS) works;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken for simplification of this procedure; and

(c) the time limit for implementation of simplified procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Cases of delay in payment of wages to NREGA workers have been brought to the notice of Ministry of Rural Development. The Ministry also monitors the progress of NREGA. As a result of this, procedural gaps including those relating to wage disbursement have come to the notice of the Ministry.

(b) With a view to ensure transparency and timely payment of wages to NREGA workers, wage payment through savings accounts of NREGA worker's in Banks/Post offices has been made mandatory.

(c) Disbursement of wages through accounts in banks/post offices is linked with the availability of banks/postal network in an area. It is, therefore, not possible to fix a time for making entire wage payment through Banks/Post Offices.

Extension of NREGS in urban area

2720. SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS) to urban areas since 25.70 per cent of the urban population is poor;

(b) if so, the time frame for the extension of this programme to urban areas and the number of estimated population to be benefited under this programme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act applies only to rural areas of the country. Under the Act, adult members of a registered rural household may demand employment for a maximum of 100 days per household in a financial year for doing unskilled manual work irrespective of their status.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hiring unauthorized persons for teaching

2721. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: